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Woman's Ancient Privilege.

The wife from time immemorial—and English law has held it so from the time of King Richard I.—has deemed it her right to go through the pockets of her sleeping lord and master and to abstract therefrom the money he had withheld, whether for liquor, tobacco or other personal expenses. Silence has usually accompanied and astonished not infrequently followed this separation of the head of the family from his small change. There has been much more said than written on this grievance of the benedict. At last it has been passed upon by a court. Judge Slover, of Kansas City, in granting a divorce to a man who asked for it, among other grounds, because his wife had a habit of "frisking" his pockets after he fell asleep, said he would grant it for other reasons. "I shall do nothing," he said, "to interfere with that ancient privilege of the fair sex. A wife has the right to do that." The moral seems to be either that the pocket of the sleeping husband is not a safe blank or that a man ought not to make it necessary for a wife to obtain money in that way.

Profitable Fellowship.

Among the pleasures and profits of intelligent travel are the companionships one forms. The well-poised traveler is never afraid to make new friends, says the Four-Track News. He soon learns to read human nature sufficiently to know whom to trust, and one cannot travel, even to a very limited extent, without meeting many people well worth knowing. The little home circle is delightful and often helpful, but the viewpoints and opportunities of our fellow-citizens are so nearly identical that our next-door neighbors are not apt to furnish as profitable friendships as persons we meet whose environments are different and who have, perhaps, had a wider range of opportunities and seen more of the things worth while, which are the heritage of the traveler. When the man who is familiar with the east meets the man who has learned the great story of the west, the conversation is pretty apt to be worth listening to.

The singular spectacle is presented in Europe of a great, intelligent and progressive people now practically free and independent peddling their throne about among the princes of the neighborhood, begging for some one to come and rule them. The people of Norway, says the Kansas City Journal, are notable for their stuffy industry, wholesome courage and high intellectual ideals. So far as capacity for self-government is concerned, they are second to none. This hardy northern race has always been remarkable for its resistance to oppression. Perhaps no country in all Europe is more promising ground for the spread of political independence. Yet Norway is hawking her throne about as a gift to some alien prince.

The introduction of eggs into a recent debate with an umpire in a western town seems to establish a precedent which cannot be too promptly squelched. Hitherto the handy bat and the convenient cushion have been all that seemed necessary in emphasizing the views of the disagreeing element. But the use of eggs, no matter what their age or previous conditions, turns, as it were, the hurried and unpremeditated act of an overwrought mind into deliberate malice and criminal afterthought.

Here's another from Kansas: A Kansas man was seen sitting alone on the prairie with a two-bushel sack of dollars by his side. He seemed to be in distress and was asked what worried him. "It is this way," said the man, as he kicked disgustedly at a tuft of bunch grass. "I just sold my crop of wheat, and there isn't a blamed bird to throw the money at. What I am to do with the stuff is more than I can tell." This one sounds cheap, but it gives an idea of Kansas conditions at the present time.

Sordidness—the love of money and the desire to have it at any price—has been the stigma which European nations have fixed upon the people of the United States. But now and then some great American puts into modern English the old truth, "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

TIMING SPEED OF AUTOS.

Camera Invention Which Enables Police to Keep Tab on Scorchers.

To ascertain the exact speed at which motor cars are traveling is often a question of great importance to the general public, who suffer by reckless motoring, and of equal importance to conscientious and careful motorists who wish to obey whatever the law on the subject may be. A new time-recording camera has just been patented in England.

If the police wish to know the speed at which a motor car is traveling two of the time-recording cameras referred to can be placed at each end of a "trap," the distance between the points where the cameras are located having been accurately measured. The plan is for the cameras to take actual photographs of a car, including the people on the car, as it passes the selected spots, recording the time of taking to the fraction of a second. This gives the speed and means of identification of car and occupants.

If the watch be synchronized the decision arrived at must be accepted by all parties as accurate. It is proposed that when a driver is summoned for exceeding the speed limit he be furnished with the photograph of the car entering and leaving the "trap" and the time records and be given an opportunity before appearing in court to measure the length of the trap and calculate from the data the time actually taken in traversing the distance and from this the rate of speed.

With this camera it is possible to take a photograph of any rapidly moving object passing a given point, the shutter speeds giving a range of exposure from one-twenty-fifth of a second to the one-thousandth of a second. At the same time and with the same movement a photograph is taken of a watch, thus giving the exact time. A special case is provided for the watch and in an opening above the latter a card is inserted giving the date, which can be signed by the officer responsible for the time test. Underneath the dial is a numbering apparatus and each watch case bears a registered number before it is sold. The case is so made that after the official has placed the watch in the case it can be sealed (not locked) up, and it is impossible for the person in charge of the same to tamper with the watch without breaking or destroying the seal. The camera thus makes a record that can be produced in court and if carefully stored can be referred to and reproduced months afterwards.

CLEVER REPLY OF DEBTOR.

It Was Amply Abject and Concerning Enough to Secure an Extension.

A prominent business house in Baltimore placed a bill in the hands of a collector, who, in response to a request for settlement, relates the Sun, received the following reply:

"My Dear Sir: Absence from the city prevented my writing in answer to yours of a recent date.

"It will be absolutely impossible for me to settle the claim you mention at present, for the very simple, but good reason—I haven't got it.

"I lost every penny I had in the world, and considerable I had in the future, in a theatrical venture last September. Up to the present time I have not recovered from the shock.

"I think if you lay this fact before your clients they will not advise you to proceed harshly against me. From their past experience with my modes of procedure in days gone by, I do not think they can recall any suspicious mannerisms which could lead them to suppose I am a debt dodger.

"I have simply been initiated into the Lodge of Sorrow, Hard Luck Chapter, Pool Division, No. 69.

"My picture, hanging crepe-laden on the walls of the Hall of Fame, bears the legend, 'Sucker No. 33,876,494.'

"My motto is, briefly: 'I would if I could; but I haven't, so I can't.'

"Fortune may smile, however; up to the present writing it has given me the laugh. I have hopes.

"Directly I am in a position even remotely suggesting opulence, I assure you your balance will receive my very prompt attention."

Bushels of Spectacles.

About a year ago Rev. John W. Chapman, the church's missionary at Anvik, Alaska, called attention to the good use to which spectacles and eyeglasses, whose owners had no further use for them, could be put in helping to improve and prolong the eyesight of some of the Indian people along the Yukon. He remarked in a semi-humorous vein that he "could use about a peck of spectacles." That his appeal went home to many is evidenced by a communication just received from Mr. Chapman, announcing that up to June 26 three and a half bushels of spectacles had reached Anvik from 152 friends. It is probable that for the present at least the population of Anvik is well supplied with these aids to better vision, so that no further gifts of this character need be sent until Mr. Chapman announces afresh the possibility of using a peck of spectacles.—Churchman.

Huge Pumping Plant.

An exceedingly massive pumpwork, probably the largest in the world, has just been constructed at a Leeds foundry to the order of a Tasmanian gold mining company. It is capable of dealing with 7,000,000, or at a pinch 8,000,000, gallons of water per day from a depth of 2,000 feet. It is interesting to learn that the order was obtained in competition with foreigners, and the machinery has been entirely made in England.

Why the Child's School Life Should Begin Early

By JOSEPH LEE,
Member of the Playground Committee of American Civic League.



THINK it is good for most children to go to kindergarten at four and to a modernized primary school at six. It is true that the latter ought to keep him indoors (at least in good weather) only three hours a day until he is about nine years old.

Why do I think a child should go to school so young? The first great benefit he gets is a chance to rest. A child of four, who has had constantly upon his shoulders the whole bossing and direction not only of his parents, but of the entire household and of the stranger within the gates (as is the fate of most American children at this tender age), needs some opportunity to relax. The strain is greater than any child should be called upon to bear without a let-up or intermission of some sort. Some place should always be provided in which he can lay aside the cares of office and enjoy a little well-earned repose. Such repose he will find in school, not only in the rule of the teacher, but also in the society of his equals in age and importance, whom he will find perfectly ready to relieve him of all the cares and responsibilities of sovereignty.

The two great things that a child gets in school are not in the acquirement of this, that, or the other bit of skill or knowledge, but, first, the becoming a part of a world that does not revolve around him, and that is going to go on just the same whether he assents to its doing so or not; and, secondly, the society of his equals.

The second advantage is important, Goethe says that every child ought to learn to look level, as well as to look up and to look down, to deal squarely with his equals, as well as to be respectful to his elders and kind to those weaker than himself. The school teaches this. And as a result of these two things, discipline and equality, the child in school becomes no longer the boss of the show (or, haply, the too much bossed "stubborn child" or younger brother), but the equal subject of a common discipline, the soldier in the ranks, learning the meaning of keeping step, of the touch of the elbow, of being one of the crowd, in the push, in the service.

At the age of six or thereabouts the power to deal with the regular school studies makes its appearance; and its use of this power, as of any other, from the baby's first kicking of his legs to the man's last kick against his taxbill, brings with it more strength of body as well as power of mind. For the child, body, mind and all, is one and not many, and the way to gain strength is to use it.

Joseph Lee

Marriage and Divorce Laws Need Remodeling

By MISS EDITH GRISWOLD,
New York Lawyer.

that law is not only ludicrous, but reflects upon our form of government in general.

But I believe in law and order, and therefore in laws that human nature can obey. I think it highly immoral for two persons who are seriously incompatible, or who have come to dislike each other, to dwell together in the marriage relation. And young children living in the atmosphere of unloving parents are sure to have the finer nature blunted. It would be preferable to be brought up in a state nursery where scientific methods of raising children could be applied.

Our marriage laws are at fault. They should first and foremost provide for the pecuniary protection of children before such come into this world. Something akin to the Bellamy idea will have to be applied as far as minors are concerned before we ever get a civilized state of society, as anyone will realize who sees much of tenement house life and thinks about it.

Until men and women are sufficiently evolved to cease making the serious mistakes in choosing mates, evidenced by the large number of separations and divorces applied for, our laws must take human nature into consideration, or our government will find itself in a position even more ridiculous than at present; that is, it will have national laws that cannot be enforced. Better even liberally to apply to the marriage laws the old English proverb: "No love is foul or prison fair," than to cause men or women to break the laws or degrade themselves to obtain freedom from misery. We should have a national law governing divorce.



How Children Can Study Common Insect Pests

By PROF. JOHN B. SMITH,
Entomologist New Jersey Agricultural College.

of observation, once formed, will continue through life.

The house fly may be carried through all its stages in ten days, and the complete cycle of changes from egg to adult observed. It will show how enormous numbers may come from a small breeding place.

Caterpillars are common, and some species, like those on cabbage, illustrate protective resemblance and protection by threatening processes. No caterpillars bite, and the more formidable they look the more safely they may be handled. Some spiny forms may cause a netting sensation, and the branched hair of others may cause irritation when rubbed into a sensitive skin. Such kinds as spin cocoons illustrate the method in which silk is produced, and teach the importance of the silk worm in the social economy. Every mile of fiber costs the life of a caterpillar.

Many nocturnal insects are concealed during the day by their resemblance to the places upon which they rest, by the attitudes they assume, or by mimicking something of common occurrence, like the extremities of birds, or the like. Others find shelter under loose bark and wherever there is a crevice large enough for them to crawl into.

Honey bees and mud wasps are easily studied; the former illustrates adaptation of structures developed for gathering pollen and honey; the latter intelligence and individuality in the use of material to build its cells.

STATE GIVES AWAY TREES.

Work of Kansas Is Proving a Great Value in Saving the Crops.

A half million trees a year for western Kansas farmers sizes up the work of the Dodge City forestry station. It hasn't been so many years since a tree was a curiosity on the semi-arid plains of the west. Now little clumps of timber can be seen on every hand, reports the Kansas City Journal. They render a valuable service, too. They furnish wind breaks for stock in the winter, shade in the summer, check hot winds and bring moisture.

"There has been a wonderful change in climatic conditions of western Kansas," said Mr. Chalk Beeson. "I can remember when the blizzards from the north in the winter would kill cattle by the thousands, and the hot winds from the south would burn up crops and pastures in the summer. We got caught coming and going. Now we are not bothered with either. The trees break the blizzards in winter and the hot winds in summer. The saving to the farmers in cattle alone runs into the thousands of dollars. And as for crops, we haven't known of a failure since the trees got big enough to do business."

The salvation of the western country depends more upon trees than on irrigation. Only a small part of the country can be irrigated at all—the river valleys. The government is spending \$250,000 making irrigation experiments around Garden City. If they prove successful the farmers, in the long run, will have to foot that bill. If they fail the government will be the loser. But irrigation affects only a small area. It is the handling of the upland that a profit that will count. And it seems that trees offer the only solution of what has seemed a difficult problem.

The government has set aside 60,000 acres of land in Finney county for a tree reserve. Experiments will be made to find out what species of timber is best adapted for that country. The arid districts of Europe, Asia and Africa will be searched by experts for trees that thrive without much water. As soon as the government has its reserve well started it will supply trees to western farmers at a small cost and encourage them in every way to start groves.

The state now supplies 500,000 trees annually to the farmers. These are produced at the station and shipped out in the spring. The farmers simply have to pay for their delivery. No charge is made for the trees by the state.

EXTRAORDINARY SHELLFISH.

Bivalve of Singular Construction That Bores in a Remarkable Manner.

Perhaps the most extraordinary light-giving shellfish is the pholas, or file fish. It is a bivalve; that is to say, it has two shells, which are open at both ends, and at each end is a cover which fits over the opening. The fish stays always in one place, apparently without any life or movement, but it is really a wide-awake, hungry creature. By means of the covers to its shells it can open and close them just when it wants to and out of either opening it thrusts 12 long, crooked, hairy arms in search of its prey. Eight smaller arms are generally tucked away inside the shell.

The pholas is found in all sorts of situations—sometimes at the bottom of the sea, sometimes hidden away in limps of earth, sometimes lodged, shell and all, in the heart of the hardest marble, for the boring powers of the fish are truly marvelous.

If you take the pholas out of its shell it looks like a soft, round pudding, with no instrument for boring into even the softest substances. Its two teeth are so placed as to be useless for the purpose; so are the covers to its shells. The implement which it uses is a broad, fleshy foot, which issues from one end or the other of its shell, and its method of boring suggested to the great engineer, Brunel, in 1814, the way to make the Thames tunnel, and served as a model for the machines used in boring the Mont Cenis tunnel.

The pholas works thus: Fixing itself firmly by its powerful foot, it uses it as a center bit, around which it makes its shell revolve; the soft edges of the shell begin the perforation, which is afterward enlarged by the rasplike action of the rough interior. Though constantly worn down, it is replaced by a new formation from the animal, so that it is always kept in good condition for boring.

Teaching Blind Fish to See.

In the hope of teaching blind fish to see, some interesting experiments are being carried out at the New York aquarium. A large consignment of blind fish has just been received there from the Mammoth cave of Kentucky, and Mr. Spencer, director of the aquarium fish hatchery, expects that under his care the blind fish will, in time, evolve eyes and see like other fish. The fish are natives of Echo river, the deepest subterranean stream in the world.

Double-Tailed Lizards.

The small house lizards, which are numerous in the tropics, shed their tails when caught or badly frightened. Frequently, when the new caudal appendage grows out again, it comes in a bifurcated shape and the small animal is then considered a "masco" by the superstitious natives.

What a Question!

Mersey—I would never marry a man I did not love.

Maudie—But suppose a real wealthy man should propose?

"I should love him, of course."—Sissy Stories.

TEMPERANCE NOTES

REDUCES THE CRIME.

How the Closing of the Saloons at St. Louis Has Lowered the Criminal Cases.

Since Gov. Folk clapped the lid on the saloons of St. Louis, the sentiment of the people for and against the Sunday saloon, and the lid in its various phases—ethical, moral, financial and sociological—have been a burning entity in St. Louis, stirring the community to such feeling of resentment and indorsement that it has overshadowed all other locally public questions.

In the fervor of this debate St. Louis has heard everything but the lid's argument for itself. It is an argument of figures.

The lid's argument is the record of police arrests in St. Louis through the period that the lid has been on, compared with the arrests made in this same period through three prior years. The figures are those of the police. They are unprejudiced.

They show that during the period that the lid has been on the Sunday behavior of the city has greatly improved. Drunkenness on Sunday has decreased 38 per cent. Disturbances of the peace on Sunday have decreased 13 per cent. Assaults with intent to kill have decreased 50 per cent. That is, there have been 50 per cent. fewer arrests for assault with intent to kill, 58 per cent. fewer arrests for drunkenness, and 13 per cent. fewer arrests for disturbances of the peace in the time that the lid has been on than there were in these same four months of the three years prior to this, with the lid off.

This is the arithmetic side of the lid, as set forth by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It could not be presented before because the time has been insufficient to furnish a fair comparison. Four months is time enough to make possible an important and comprehensive test. The Post-Dispatch has gathered these statistics from the police, and now publishes them for the first time. Here are the comparisons of arrests for various offenses before and after the lid:

DRUNKENNESS.
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 29 to July 27, 1902. 15 1-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 19 to July 26, 1903. 15 9-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 26 to July 31, 1904. 15 11-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 16 to July 30, 1905. 8 12-15
Average decrease per Sunday in favor of the lid, 6 11-15, or 38 per cent.

DISORDERLY THE PEACE.
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 29 to July 27, 1902. 37 7-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 19 to July 26, 1903. 39 2-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 26 to July 31, 1904. 36 2-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 16 to July 30, 1905. 39 2-15
Average decrease per Sunday under the lid, 5 2-15, or 13 per cent.

ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL.
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 29 to July 27, 1902. 4-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 19 to July 26, 1903. 11-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 26 to July 31, 1904. 1 9-15
Average per Sunday for 15 Sundays from April 16 to July 30, 1905. 7-15
Average decrease per Sunday in favor of the lid, 7 15, or 50 per cent.

These offenses cover pretty well the misbehavior of a community in so far as drinking has anything to do with it. Drunkenness, of course, is a direct product of the saloon. Disturbance of the peace may be due to drink or it may not, but the figures show that such disturbances are more frequent with the saloon open than they are with the saloon closed. Assaults with intent to kill cannot always be laid at the door of the saloon, but the statistics prove that the number of them is diminished just 50 per cent, when the saloon door is closed.

The advocate of the enforcement of the Sunday law will naturally feel that, in view of the revelations of comparative figures, the law and the enforcement of it are justified, because of their moral value to the community. Those members of the community that have upheld the governor in his position will feel that, although it is undeniable that Sunday drinking is harmless with the majority of people that indulge in it, it is the duty of all to desist in order that what is a harmless privilege to many may not be made a dangerous privilege to that limited element which abuses its opportunity to the extent of drunkenness, disturbance of the peace, and, in exceptional but not always infrequent cases, in attempts to take human life.

